

CCM Intersessional Meetings

16-17 May 2022, Geneva

Statement by the Gender and Diversity Working Group

Thank you Chair.

I am honoured to take the floor on behalf of the Gender and Diversity Working Group, which includes representatives from the CCCM, DCA, DRC, the GICHD, HALO, HI, the ICBL-CMC, MAC, MAG, the Mine Action Review, NPA, and SEHLAC.

As a Working Group, we are pleased to see this item on the agenda and appreciate the opportunity to share these comments. Conversations about mainstreaming gender and diversity in the implementation of the Convention belong in the plenary room.

We thank Ireland, Chile, Canada, Cuba, the Netherlands and Mexico, who have spoken under this agenda item, for sharing their experiences. In March this year, the Gender and Diversity Working Group organised an informal meeting with participation from some of the previous and current Gender Focal points from the Mine Ban Treaty and the new Gender Focal points of the Convention on Cluster Munitions, to draw on the experience of the Mine Ban Treaty gender focal points, exchange lessons learnt, and benefit from synergies between the Mine Ban Treaty and CCM and their respective action plans.

The Lausanne Action Plan has put a necessary and urgent focus on gender and diversity for our work and now is the time to translate the words on paper to concrete actions which will ensure effective implementation of the Convention. The low rate of submission of annual Article 7 transparency reports has made it difficult to evaluate States' progress on implementing the relevant actions from the Lausanne Action Plan. We welcome the planned efforts to adapt the Article 7 reporting form to take into consideration the Lausanne Action Plan, including importantly, action points and indicators related to Gender and Diversity. The Gender and Diversity Working Group stands ready to provide expert input in this respect.

For the Working Group, the inclusion of information on gender and diversity with clear indicators in transparency reporting is a prerequisite for meaningful implementation and monitoring of the Lausanne Action Plan. It will allow us to effectively support States Parties when necessary, to identify gaps and good practices, and to promote accountability. We agree with the statement made by member organization the GICHD that "We now need to focus on implementation and results" so we urge State Parties to comply with their obligations and include gender, disability, and age disaggregated casualty and beneficiary data in your transparency reporting, along with other relevant diversity considerations.

The draft Terms of Reference for the Gender Focal Points are a welcome addition to the Convention's work. We commend the Focal Points for their comprehensive and creative list of activities. By articulating clear expectations and actions for the Focal Points, the draft Terms of Reference will help maximize the potential impact of this new role and improve the implementation of the Lausanne Action Plan and the Convention as a whole.

Concrete measures at operational and international levels should be taken to ensure effective participation of different groups, including those that remain vulnerable and excluded because of lack of action, budget allocation and other barriers.

The Gender and Diversity Working Group is committed to supporting the Gender Focal Points in their work and to that extent we are pleased to invite all States to an online workshop on 30th and 31st of May to further discuss concrete measures regarding gender and diversity mainstreaming in the Convention. We are honoured to be hosting this workshop with the UK Presidency and the Colombian Presidency of the Mine Ban Treaty and we welcome participation from all states.

We join other voices in condemning the use of cluster munitions in Ukraine. Cluster munition use more than a decade after the Convention came into force is unacceptable. These banned weapons cause indiscriminate harm to civilians with women, men, girls, boys, those with disabilities and other groups experiencing this harm in different ways. We further note the need to ensure that all responses to these abhorrent weapons, including victim assistance, risk education and survey or mapping, and subsequent clearance are all tailored to the full diversity of affected communities. Only by creating a transparent, needs-based response that leaves no one behind can we say that we have fulfilled the norms set out by this Convention.

Thank you.